

THE STATUS OF THE GENUS *MINEUS* STÅL, 1862
(HETEROPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE: ASOPINAE)

DONALD B. THOMAS, JR.

USDA-ARS Screwworm Research, Apartado Postal 544, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico.

Abstract.—The synonymy of the genus *Mineus* Stål is confirmed. *Mineus strigipes* is placed in the asopine genus *Perillus* Stål. *Mineus triangularis* (Walker) is transferred to the pentatomine genus *Mormidea* Amyot & Serville, where it is the senior synonym of *Mormidea kirkaldyi* Rolston.

Key Words: *Mineus*, Pentatomidae, Asopinae, taxonomy

The genus *Mineus* was erected by Stål (1867) to hold a single species, *Podisus strigipes* Herrich-Schaefer, 1851. The species occurs throughout the eastern United States with records for New Mexico (Ruckes 1937) and Arizona (Froeschner 1988) probable misidentifications of *Perillus exaptus* (Say). A second species, *Strachia triangularis* Walker, was transferred to *Mineus* by Distant (1900). The locality of origin given by Walker (1867) was Ecuador. In his revision of the Asopinae, Schouteden (1907) provided a key to the genera which included *Mineus* and an excellent figure of *Mineus strigipes*. Schouteden listed *Mineus triangularis* with a question mark, and in a footnote he stated that based on Walker's description the species did not appear to belong in *Mineus*. Nothing further has been published on *Mineus triangularis*, and in spite of the excellent drawing, *Mineus strigipes* is often misidentified in collections, being confused with *Perillus exaptus*. The source of the confusion is that Schouteden (1907) and later Torre-Bueno (1938) separate *Perillus* and *Mineus* by the presence of a subapical spine on the profemur. In *Perillus exaptus*, however, the spine is reduced to a small tubercle

which in some cases is absent altogether. The dorsal markings are similar enough so that someone using Knight's (1952) revision of *Perillus* would easily confound the two species. It is generally overlooked (e.g. McPherson 1982, Froeschner 1988) that Hoffman (1971) synonymized *Mineus* under *Perillus*, an arrangement with which I am in complete accord. The genitalic structure of *strigipes* is identical to that of the other species of *Perillus*, there being little interspecific variation in either males or females of the genus. McDonald (1966), who studied the genitalia, also concluded that *strigipes* belonged in *Perillus*, but it was not within the scope of his study to make formal nomenclatural changes. The species of *Perillus* can be distinguished by the dorsal markings as described in Knight's (1952) revision and key. *Perillus strigipes* and *Perillus exaptus* can be distinguished because *strigipes* always has a median, longitudinal stripe of yellow to red color on the midline of the pronotum, which is lacking in *exaptus*.

The synonymy of *Mineus* under *Perillus* leaves *Mineus triangularis* without a genus. I recently examined the holotype of *Strach-*

ia triangularis Walker, which is located in the British Museum of Natural History. The species belongs in the genus *Mormidea* Amyot & Serville, subgenus *Melanochila* Stål. The specimen is a female and has an ivory callous traversing the pronotum along the posterior margin of the cicatrices. Also, the specimen has a complete ivory callous along the margins of the scutellum, and a prominent linear ivory callous on the disc of the corium following the embolar suture. The specimen is missing all legs except one which is mounted on a card below it. The tibia is black with a median yellow band. Based on these characters and using the revision of *Mormidea* by Rolston (1978), the species can be placed as *Mormidea montandoni* Kirkaldy, 1902. Subsequently, however, Rolston (1984) reported that *M. montandoni* was misidentified by him and was a senior synonym of *M. bridarolli* Piran, which has the tibia yellow with black spots. The species identified in his revision by having the black tibia with the median yellow band was therefore unnamed and he proposed the name *Mormidea kirkaldyi*. *Strachia triangularis*, with its new combination *Mormidea triangularis* (Walker 1867), is therefore a senior synonym of *Mormidea kirkaldyi* Rolston (1984).

The placement of *Mineus* as a junior synonym of *Perillus* is thus confirmed and the following synonymy is proposed:

1. *Perillus strigipes* (Herrich-Schaefer).
Podisus strigipes Herrich-Schaefer 1851: 338.
Mineus strigipes: Stål 1867: 48.
Perillus strigipes: Hoffman 1971: 55.
 2. *Mormidea triangularis* (Walker).
Strachia triangularis Walker 1867: 323.
Mineus triangularis: Distant 1900: 55.
Mormidea kirkaldyi Rolston 1984: 342.
- NEW SYNONYMY.**
Mormidea triangularis: **NEW COMBINATION.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to William R. Dolling, British Museum Natural History, for lending the type of *Strachia triangularis* Walker, and David E. Rider for help locating Distant's reference to *Mineus triangularis*.

LITERATURE CITED

- Distant, W. L. 1900. Rhynchotal notes. V. Heteroptera: Asopinae-Tessaratominae. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 7: 55-65.
- Froeschner, R. C. 1982. In Henry, T. H. and R. C. Froeschner, eds., Catalog of the Heteroptera or true bugs of Canada and the continental United States. E. J. Brill Publ., Leiden.
- Herrich-Schaefer, G. A. 1851. Die Wanzenartigen Insecten, Vol. IX. Nurnberg.
- Hoffman, R. L. 1971. The Insects of Virginia No. 4. Shield Bugs (Hemiptera; Scutelleroidea: Scutelleridae, Corimelaenidae, Cydnidae, Pentatomidae). Virginia Polytechnic Inst. Res. Div. Bull. 67.
- Knight, H. H. 1952. Review of the genus *Perillus* with description of a new species (Hemiptera, Pentatomidae). Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 45: 229-232.
- McDonald, F. J. D. 1966. The genitalia of North American Pentatomoidea (Hemiptera: Heteroptera). Quaest. Entomol. 2: 7-150.
- McPherson, J. E. 1982. The Pentatomoidea (Hemiptera) of northeastern North America with emphasis on the fauna of Illinois. Southern Illinois Univ. Press, Carbondale.
- Rolston, L. H. 1978. A revision of the genus *Mormidea* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae). J. New York Entomol. Soc. 84: 161-219.
- . 1984. New synonymy and a new species in the genus *Mormidea* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae). J. New York Entomol. Soc. 92: 342-343.
- Ruckes, H. 1937. An annotated list of some pentatomids (Heteroptera) from New Mexico. Bull. Brooklyn Entomol. Soc. 32: 32-36.
- Schouteden, H. 1907. Heteroptera: Fam. Pentatomidae: Subfam. Asopinae (Amyoteinae). In Wytzman, P., ed., Genera Insectorum Fasc. 52. Bruxelles.
- Stål, C. 1867. Bidrag till Hemipternas Systematik. Ofv. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Forhandl. 24: 491-560.
- Torre-Bueno, J. R. de la. 1938. A synopsis of the Hemiptera-Heteroptera of America north of Mexico. Part I. Families Scutelleridae, Cydnidae, Pentatomidae, Aradidae, Dysodidae and Temitaphididae. Entomol. Amer. 19: 141-304.
- Walker, F. 1867. Catalogue of the specimens of Heteropterus-Hemiptera in the collection of the British Museum, Vol. 2. London.